

Message Text

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ACTION L-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EUR-08 ARA-06

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5943

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR

SUBJ: ICJ ELECTIONS -- WEO CANDIDACIES

REF: USUN 5931

1. AT THE WEO GROUP MEETING 13 NOVEMBER, THE CHAIRMAN (AMB. HARRY) REPORTED HE HAS HAD 19 INDICATIONS OF PREFERENCE FROM AMONG THE GROUP'S 25 PARTICIPANTS IN THE STRAW BALLOTING. HARRY SAID ONLY TWO CANDIDATES HAVE "SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE GROUP", THE OTHER CANDIDATES HAVING AT BEST 1 OR 2 SUPPORTERS. NONE OF THE SIX COUNTRIES HAVING CANDIDATES HAS AUTHORITY TO INDICATE WITHDRAWALS, BUT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE HIS CONSULTATIONS. HE BELIEVES A SECOND STRAW BALLOT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL BECAUSE THE TWO POPULAR CANDIDATES ENJOY EQUAL SUPPORT. HE ACCORDINGLY PROPOSED IN THE NEXT INSTANCE TO CONSULT WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND THE FIVE WEO MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT ABOUT 12:00 NOON ON FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER; THE FULL WEO GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN THE SAME DAY AT 3:00 P.M.

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2. AUSTRIAN AMB. JANKOWITSCH SAID PROF. VEROSTA IS WILLING

TO WITHDRAW IN THE HOPE THE GROUP WILL SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION IN THE 1976 ELECTIONS. THE UK,NORWAY, THE FRG, SWEDEN AND THE US APPRECIATED THE VEROSTA WITHDRAWAL AND, IN VARYING DEGREES OF DETAIL, INDICATED THAT VEROSTA'S SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSONALITY WOULD WARRANT THEIR MOST SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION WHEN THE TIME BECAME RIPE. DELOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HARRY'S EFFORTS AND POINTED TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE PERSISTENCE OF TWO RIVAL CANDIDACIES WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF THE WEO SEAT.

3. AFTER THE MEETING HARRY APPROACHED SIR VINCENT EVANS OF THE UK AND US DELOFFS TO SAY HE IS TRYING TO CONVINCE THE FRG AND NORWAY TO AGREE THAT, AS TO BALLOTING IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE FIVE WEO COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD AGREE TO CAST THEIR FIRST BALLOTS FOR WHICHEVER AS AMONGST THE GERMAN AND THE NORWEGIAN, IS MOST POPULAR WITH THE FIVE; WITH FIVE SOLID VOTES BEHIND HIM, THAT CANDIDATE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP AN ADDITIONAL THREE, THUS PRODUCING THE NECESSARY MAJORITY OF EIGHT IN THE COUNCIL ON THE FIRST BALLOT. EVANS AND DELOFFS OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD NOT SUFFICE AND THAT, AS EVANS HAS URGED REPEATEDLY, UNLESS A SINGLE WEO CANDIDATE OBTAINS THE NECESSARY MAJORITY IN THE COUNCIL AND RPT AND IN THE ASSEMBLY ON THE FIRST BALLOT AND IS THUS ELECTED, THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE WEO SEAT WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY RAIDED ON THE SECOND BALLOT BY AN ASIAN OR AFRICAN CANDIDATE.
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